

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /120 W
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R 111642Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2837
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03166

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PORC, MILI, UNGA
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 APPROVES REPORTS ON GUAM,
BERMUDA, TURKS AND CAICOS, US VIRGIN ISLANDS AND COCOS
(KEELING) ISLANDS

REF: A. STATE 200587, B. USUN 2769

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) AUG 10 APPROVED BY CONSENSUS ITS REPORTS TO THE UNGA ON THE TERRITORIES OF GUAM, BERMUDA, AND THE TURKS AND CAICOS FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON WORDING OF PARAGRAPH ON MILITARY BASES. LANGUAGE FINALLY AGREED DOES NOT DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT AGREED EARLIER IN SUBCOMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION REPORTS ON US VIRGIN ISLANDS AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT AUG 10 MEETING OF C-24 AUSTRALIAN REP MORRIS (RAPPORTEUR OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES) ANNOUNCED NEW LANGUAGE ON MILITARY BASES THAT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO SUBSTITUTE FOR PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS IN REPORTS ON GUAM, BERMUDA AND TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS (PARAS 6(5), 6(11) AND 6(7) IN RESPECTIVE REPORTS). WORDING READS AS FOLLOWS: "THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, RECALLING THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING MILITARY BASES IN COLONIAL AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, RECOGNIZES THAT THE PRESENCE OF MILITARY BASES COULD CONSTITUTE A FACTOR IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES AND REAFFIRMS ITS STRONG CONVICTION THAT THE PRESENCE OF MILITARY BASES IN GUAM (BERMUDA/TURKS AND CAICOS) SHOULD NOT PREVENT THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY

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FROM EXERCISING THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECLARATION AND THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER."

3. WITH VARYING DEGREES OF VEHEMENCE, REPS OF AFGHANISTAN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, CUBA, IRAQ, USSR, CONGO, BULGARIA, ETHIOPIA AND CHINA (WHO SPOKE AFTER DECISION) MADE STATEMENTS REITERATING THEIR VIEW THAT MILITARY BASES IN "COLONIAL" TERRITORIES DO CONSTITUTE AN OBSTACLE TO THE EXERCISE BY THE PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. SEVERAL (USSR, CONGO, ETHIOPIA, CHINA) SPECIFICALLY RESERVED THEIR POSITIONS AND MOST SAID THEY HAD GONE ALONG IN SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE DESPITE STRONG CONVICTIONS ON SUBJECT. IVORY COAST (SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KOUAME) DISAGREED WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHER REPS, NOTING MILITARY BASES MAY SOMETIMES BE USED BY ADMINISTERING POWER TO PRESSURE POPULATION BUT HAVE NOT ALWAYS CONSTITUTED AN OBSTACLE TO THE EXERCISE OF RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. HE WELCOMED CONSENSUS WHICH HE THOUGHT COULD GREATLY FACILITATE WORK OF FOURTH COMMITTEE OF GA WHERE HE HOPED THIS CONSENSUS WOULD ALSO

PREVAIL. CHAIRMAN SALIM (TANZANIA) SAID RESERVATIONS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN RECORDS AND, WITH NO OBJECTION, THREE REPORTS WITH NEW WORDING WERE APPROVED. SALIM NOTED CONSENSUS DID NOT REPRESENT TOTAL AGREEMENT - THAT WAS NATURE OF CONSENSUS - AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED IVORY COAST VIEW THAT COMMITTEE'S ACTION SHOULD PROVIDE SOUND BASIS FOR GA ACTION.

4. COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION REPORTS ON US VIRGIN ISLANDS AND COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS RECOMMENDED TO C-24 BY SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/L.

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1248 AND L.1250, RESPECTIVELY).

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5. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCOUNT FOR THE SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE MILITARY BASES LANGUAGE APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE. NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR SEVERAL DAYS, WITH LITTLE SIGN OF GIVE. LATE AUG 9, HOWEVER, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON COMPROMISE WORDING, WHICH WAS IMPROVED EVEN FURTHER FROM US POINT OF VIEW IN LAST-MINUTE DISCUSSIONS MORNING OF AUG 10. WE WERE SURE OR REASONABLY CERTAIN OF NEGATIVE VOTES ON SOVIET AMENDMENT FROM AUSTRALIA, CHILE, FIJI, INDONESIA, IRAN, IVORY COAST, SIERRA LEONE AND SWEDEN, WITH POSSIBLE NOS OR AT LEAST ABSTENTIONS FROM INDIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND TUNISIA. FACT THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VOTES AGAINST SOVIET PROPOSAL, PLUS GENERAL FEELING AMONG C-24 MEMBERS THAT DECISIONS SHOULD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BE BY CONSENSUS (A POSITION STRONGLY HELD BY CHAIRMAN SALIM AND SOME OF THE OTHER NONALIGNED) PROBABLY WERE MAJOR FACTORS. TACTICAL SKILL SHOWN BY MORRIS IN UTILIZING ALL POSSIBLE BARGAINING CHIPS TO WIN POINTS WAS ALSO IMPORTANT.

6. WE SUGGEST DEPT AUTHORIZE CANBERRA TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR EXTREMELY HELPFUL ROLE MORRIS (AND MORE RECENTLY ALSO JAMES) HAS PLAYED ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS, BOTH IN SUBCOMMITTEE AND AT FULL COMMITTEE LEVEL. MISSION ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATES EFFORTS OF POSTS WHOSE APPROACHES IN CAPITALS HELPED INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME. LEONARD

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